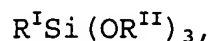


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a light-transmitting discharge vessel (10),
the discharge vessel (10) enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (13) provided with a filling of mercury and a rare gas,
the discharge vessel (10) comprising means for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (13),
at least a portion of the discharge vessel (10) being provided with a luminescent layer (17) of a luminescent material,
at least a portion of the discharge vessel (10) facing away from the discharge space (13) being provided with a coating (3),
characterized in that
the coating (3) comprises a pigment which absorbs a part of the visible or UV light and/or the coating (3) comprises reflecting particles,
the coating (3) comprises a network obtainable through conversion of an organically modified silane by means of a sol-gel process,

said organically modified silane being selected from the group formed by compounds of the following structural formula:



wherein R^I represents an organic group, preferably an alkyl group or an aryl group, and

wherein R^{II} represents an alkyl group.

2. (original) The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the R^I group comprises CH_3 or C_6H_5 .

3. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~, characterized in that the R^{II} group comprises CH_3 or C_2H_5 .

4. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~, characterized in that an average diameter d_p of the pigment is $d_p \leq 100 \text{ nm}$.

5. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~, characterized in that the thickness t_c of the coating (3) is $t_c \geq 1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

6. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that silica particles having a diameter $d \leq 50$ nm are incorporated in the network.

7. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the pigment causes a change in the color temperature of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp.

8. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the pigment is selected from the group formed by iron oxide, iron oxide doped with phosphorus, zinc-iron oxide, cobalt aluminate, neodymium oxide, bismuth vanadate, zirconium praseodymium silicate, and mixtures thereof.

9. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the pigment is selected from the group formed by anthraquinone, chromium phthalic yellow, perylene, quinacridone, Ni-isoindoline, quinacridone, Cu-phthalocyanine, Cu-phthalocyanine, dyaryl, chromium phthalic red, and mixtures thereof.

10. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the reflecting particles are selected from the group formed by aluminum, silver, aluminum oxide, titanium oxide, and barium sulfate.

11. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the size of the particles is in a range from 1 to 400 nm, preferably approximately 250 nm.